

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method to register business directory listings and advertisements, comprising ~~the acts of~~:

(a) providing a computer-based directory of business listings and advertisements, said directory being stored in a data store and comprising data organized as a tree having editorial nodes, wherein a plurality of said nodes are having labels representative of business categories, and a plurality of said leaf level editorial nodes are leaf level nodes having standard industry code (SIC) base business listings associated therewith, said business directory capable of storing business listings according to said business categories;

(b) accepting, from a client, via a network, at least one request to store a desired business listing and/or advertisement, said request indicating at least one of said business categories for association therewith with said desired business listing; and

(c) storing said desired business listings and/or advertisement in said directory according to said at least one of said business categories.

2. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein said business listings comprise data elements, said data elements indicative of various information relevant to a business.

3. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein said business directory listings and advertisements reside in a data store having a plurality of tables that define the display of said business directory listings.

4. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein said advertisements are stored according to predefined packages, said packages indicating the scope and extent for display.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions for instructing a computer to carry out the following steps: ~~recited in claim 1~~

(a) providing a computer-based directory of business listings and advertisements, said directory being stored in a data store and comprising data organized as a tree having nodes, wherein a plurality of said nodes are representative of business categories, and a plurality of said nodes are leaf level nodes having standard industry code (SIC) base business listings associated therewith, said directory storing business listings according to said business categories;

(b) accepting, from a client, via a network, at least one request to store a desired business listing and/or advertisement, said request indicating at least one of said business categories for association with said desired business listing; and

(c) storing said desired business listings and/or advertisement in said directory according to said at least one of said business categories.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for the registration of business directory listings and advertisements comprising:

a registration engine, said registration engine having a set of adaptable instructions stored on a computer readable medium to procure and format business directory listing data in accordance to a predefined set of business categories, said business categories indicative of a editorial nodes of a ~~data~~ business data taxonomy tree; and

a business directory listing data store ~~capable of storing~~ advertisements and said business directory listing data according to said business categories and cooperating with said registration engine to accept, maintain, and retrieve business directory listing data and advertisements for display.

7. (Original) The system recited in claim 6, wherein said registration engine further cooperates with a computing application having a user interface to accept instructions for the manipulation and display of data.

8. (Original) The system recited in claim 7, wherein said user interface comprises a business directory listing registration interface allowing the inputting of business directory listing registration data.

9. (Original) The system recited in claim 8, wherein said registration engine determines the business categories to associate to said business listings according to category preference information provided by said cooperating computing application.

10. (Original) The system recited in claim 6, wherein said registration engine comprise a business directory listing server running a listing registration computing application and connected to the Internet.

11-19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A system for the registration of business listings and advertisements comprising:

a means for providing a directory of business listings and advertisements comprising a tree having leaf level editorial nodes having labels representative of business categories, said leaf level editorial nodes having standard industry code (SIC) base business listings associated therewith, said business directory capable of storing business listings according to said business categories;

a means for accepting at least one request to store a desired business listing and/or advertisement, said request indicating at least one of said business categories for association therewith; and

a means for storing said desired business listings and/or advertisement according to said at least one of said business categories.

21. (New) The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the following steps for creating or updating an advertisement package to be associated with a business listing:

displaying advertisement package descriptions and pricing information to a user;
prompting the user to select desired parent and child advertisement packages;
ascertaining a maximum number of lines to be allowed in the advertisement;
prompting the user to input text lines for an advertisement; and
prompting the user to select a background color for the advertisement.

22. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising prompting the user to enter e-mail address information.

23. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising receiving a logo file to act as a hyperlink to the user's content.

24. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising: determining that the advertisement package chosen contains a website; and prompting the user to input a uniform resource locator (URL) for the website.

25. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising: determining that the chosen advertisement package contains graphic image tiles, and prompting the user to select tile attributes for each of the tiles, and then prompting the user to load appropriate image files for the tiles.

26. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising determining that the chosen advertisement package contemplates tiles displayed according to a national scope, and prompting the user to select a rotation scope, wherein said rotation scope defines a display frequency and one or more geographic areas.

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27. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising that the chosen advertisement package contains a graphical image banner, and prompting the user to select graphical image banner attributes.